



SR0415

LRB098 12520 KTG 46939 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one-third of adults and almost 17% of youth were obese in 2009-2010; over 78 million U.S. adults and about 12.5 million U.S. children and adolescents were obese; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, medical costs associated with obesity were estimated at \$147 billion in 2008; the medical costs for people who are obese were \$1,429 higher than those of normal weight; and

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WHEREAS, Obesity increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and other health problems; and

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WHEREAS, The American Medical Association voted at its recent annual meeting in Chicago to recognize obesity as a disease and reported that obesity rates in our country have "doubled among adults in the last twenty years and tripled among children in a single generation"; and

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization recognize obesity as a disease; and

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1 WHEREAS, A group of big city mayors of Chicago, New York,
2 Los Angeles, and 15 other cities have sent a letter asking
3 Congress to consider limiting the use of Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program benefits by excluding the purchases of soda
5 and other sugary drinks; and

6 WHEREAS, In support of Governor Pat Quinn's June 8, 2013
7 promotional effort to encourage the use of LINK Cards at
8 Illinois Farmers Markets and to promote the accessibility and
9 affordability of healthy food options in Illinois, LINK Up
10 Illinois aims to connect low-income residents with nutritious
11 food options by providing farmers markets throughout the State
12 with Double Value Coupons; and

13 WHEREAS, The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
14 Program was designed to help end hunger and improve nutrition
15 and health; the program helps low-income households buy the
16 food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet; the program
17 is managed by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the
18 United States Department of Agriculture; the Department of
19 Human Services administers the program in Illinois; and

20 WHEREAS, The federal government mandates which foods may be
21 purchased under the program; the federal government specifies
22 that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits can be
23 used to buy any food or food product for human consumption,

1 plus seeds and plants for use in home gardens to produce food;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United
5 States Congress to review the Supplemental Nutrition
6 Assistance Program and to improve the nutritional quality
7 standards of the program by eliminating those food and beverage
8 products that have minimal nutritional value as defined by the
9 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 presented to the members of the Illinois congressional
13 delegation.